



## Policy Attachment: Reproductive Health Education and Services 20.8

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| <b>Subject:</b> | <b>Definitions</b> |
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### Additional Information:

#### Gender and Sexuality

Genetic/biological gender – a person's chromosomal inheritance.

Physical gender – a person's primary and secondary sexual characteristics.

Brain gender – functional structure of the brain, along gender lines.

Brain sex – love/sex patterns, how a person relates to others on a social and interpersonal as well as sexual level.

Gender identity – a person's subjective gender, how we feel ourselves to be male or female.

Heterosexual - refers to sexual and/or romantic attraction to between individuals of the opposite sex.

Homosexuality - refers to sexual and/or romantic attraction between individuals of the same sex. The term *gay* is used predominantly to refer to self-identified homosexuals of either sex. *Lesbian* is a gender-specific term that is only used for self-identified homosexual females.

Bisexuality - refers to sexual and/or romantic attraction to individuals of both sexes.

Having feelings about or even having a sexual experience with a person of the same sex doesn't necessarily mean that a person is gay or bisexual. It's not uncommon for people to experiment with their sexuality, especially during adolescence and young adulthood.

#### Gender Identity Disorder

Gender identity disorder describes a conflict between a person's physical or apparent gender (sex) and that person's self-identification. This is distinct from homosexuality. Homosexuals nearly always identify with their apparent gender. When one's gender identity does not match their physical gender, the individual is termed gender dysphoric.

*These terms define gender identification, not sexual orientation.*

Transgender – a person whose sense of identity as a male or female is inconsistent with their genitalia and other anatomical sexual characteristics.

Male to female (MTF) transgender individual is a transgender woman.

Female to male (FTM) transgender individual is a transgender man.

Transgenderist – a person who avoids gender role extremes and exhibits an androgynous presentation of gender. They incorporate elements of both masculinity and femininity into their appearance.

Transvestite or crossdresser – a person who will dress as a member of the opposite sex but does not self identify as the opposite sex.

Intersex – a person who has both, neither, or ambiguous male or female genitalia.